

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410

UNCLAS GENEVA 0028

FOR IO/EX/IR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, APER, ECE

SUBJ: ECE - ANTICIPATED VACANCY, ECE TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY
DIVISION

1. MISSION ADVISED THAT P-5 POSITION IN ECE TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY GRAHAM KIRBY IS EXPECTED TO BE VACANT IN JULY 1977. VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT IS EXPECTED THIS MONTH. MISSION BELIEVES THAT US SHOULD PRESENT CANDIDATE FOR THIS POSITION IN VIEW OF LEADERSHIP ROLE OF US IN S AND T FIELD AND BECAUSE THIS POSITION, WHICH HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECE S AND T WORK UNDER DIRECTOR OF TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (WHO CONCERNS HIMSELF PRIMARILY WITH TRADE), IS PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT ECE POSITION POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE FOR US CANDIDATE IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. MISSION BELIEVES IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT THIS POSITION BE FILLED BY HIGHLY COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTY EXPERIENCED TO DATE BY ECE SENIOR ADVISERS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DRAWING UP WORK PROGRAM CONTAINING PRACTICAL PROJECTS OF UTILITY TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ECE ACTIVITY MOST IN NEED OF STRONG AND IMAGINATIVE SECRETARIAT GUIDANCE AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT.

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3. CANDIDATE SHOULD HAVE PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE IN TECHNOLOGY FIELD AND TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE GOOD CONTACTS IN US SCIENTIFIC, ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES (I.E., NOT JUST THEORETICAL SCIENCE OR GOVERNMENT BACKGROUND). IN ADDITION TO WORK OF ECE SENIOR ADVISORS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, JOB INVOLVES COORDINATION WITH S AND T

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER UN BODIES IN S AND T FIELD. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AT PRESENT ARE PREPARATIONS FOR REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

4. POSITION IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY CANADIAN. MISSION BELIEVES THIS SHOULD NOT PROVE OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS OF AMERICAN CANDIDATE, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY SINCE CANADA IS HIGHLY INTERESTED (AND HAS PRESENTED CANDIDATES) FOR P-5 POSITION IN ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DIVISION PRESENTLY OCCUPIED BY US CITIZEN BEN REINER (1976 GENEVA 7285). PLACEMENT OF AMERICAN IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POSITION APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT INCUMBENT FUNCTIONS AS DEPUTY TO DIVISION DIRECTOR, WHO IS PRESENTLY AN AMERICAN (AMASSA BISHOP). MISSION BELIEVES, THEREFORE, THAT IT WOULD BE IN US INTEREST TO ENCOURAGE CANADIAN CANDIDATURE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POSITION, WHILE PRESSING FOR P-5 POSITION NOW OCCUPIED BY CANADIAN IN TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION. THIS ALSO TIES IN WITH PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN CANDIDATE FOR LOWER LEVEL (P-3) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY MISSION (1976 GENEVA 9873).CATTO

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